



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 750

LCO No. 4719

04719SB00750VA_

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Introduced by:
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING GRANTS UNDER THE MILITARY FAMILY
RELIEF FUND FOR DISABLED VETERAN ACCESSIBILITY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "department" means the Military
4 Department, (2) "fund" means the Military Family Relief Fund
5 established in accordance with this section, (3) "eligible member of the
6 armed forces" and "eligible member" means a member of the armed
7 forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, including the
8 Connecticut National Guard, who is on active duty and who is
9 domiciled in this state, (4) "immediate family member" means an
10 eligible member's spouse, child or parent who is domiciled in this
11 state, or any other member of an eligible member's family who lives in
12 the same household as the eligible member, and (5) "essential personal
13 or household goods or services" includes, but is not limited to, repairs,
14 medical services that are not covered by insurance, transportation,
15 babysitting, clothing, school supplies or any other goods or services
16 that are essential to the well-being of an eligible member's immediate

17 family, including, but not limited to, materials and labor necessary to
18 make the household accessible to a disabled eligible member.

19 (b) There is established, within the General Fund, a separate,
20 nonlapsing account to be known as the "Military Family Relief Fund".
21 The account shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise
22 made available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any
23 moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, and (3) gifts,
24 grants, donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section.
25 Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund shall become
26 part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the account at
27 the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for
28 the fiscal year next succeeding. The State Treasurer shall administer
29 the fund. All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the
30 Military Department for the purposes of this section. The Military
31 Department may deduct and retain from the moneys in the account an
32 amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering
33 the provisions of this section, except that said amount shall not exceed
34 two per cent of the moneys deposited in the account in any fiscal year.

35 (c) The Military Department shall use the Military Family Relief
36 Fund to make grants to (1) immediate family members of eligible
37 members of the armed forces for essential personal or household
38 goods or services in this state if the payment for such goods or services
39 would be a hardship for such family member because of the military
40 service of the eligible member, and (2) veterans' service organizations
41 for the labor and materials necessary to make the facilities of such
42 organizations accessible to disabled eligible members. The department
43 shall not make any grant that exceeds the balance available for grants
44 in the fund.

45 (d) The department shall establish an application process that is
46 simple for immediate family members and veterans' service
47 organizations. The department shall act on each application no later
48 than seven days after the date on which the completed application is

49 submitted to the department.

50 (e) On or after six months from June 30, 2005, after evaluating the
51 performance of the program during the preceding six months,
52 including available resources and applications received, the
53 department may commence the process to adopt regulations, in
54 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, that would facilitate the
55 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, establishing a
56 maximum amount of each grant, of each type of grant or of grants to
57 the immediate family members of any eligible member or veterans'
58 service organizations, and establishing criteria for the approval of
59 grant applications. The department may implement the policies and
60 procedures contained in such proposed regulations while in the
61 process of adopting such proposed regulations, provided the
62 department publishes notice of intention to adopt the regulations in
63 the Connecticut Law Journal no later than twenty days after
64 implementing such policies and procedures. Policies and procedures
65 implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be valid until the earlier
66 of the date on which such regulations are effective or one year after the
67 publication of such notice of intention.

68 (f) On or before October 15, 2005, and on or before the fifteenth day
69 following the close of each calendar quarter thereafter, the department
70 shall submit a report to the select committee of the General Assembly
71 having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs,
72 in accordance with section 11-4a, that contains the following
73 information for the preceding calendar quarter: (1) The number of
74 applications received, (2) the number of eligible members whose
75 immediate family members received grants under this section and the
76 number of veterans' service organizations that received grants under
77 this section, (3) the amount in grants made to the immediate family of
78 each such eligible member and each such organization, (4) the uses for
79 such grants, and (5) any recommendations regarding the Military
80 Family Relief Fund, including any proposed legislation to facilitate the
81 purposes of this section. Such reports shall not identify the name of

82 any eligible member or of any immediate family member.
 83 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 1-210, all
 84 information obtained by the Military Department that contains the
 85 name or address of, or other information that could be used to identify,
 86 an eligible member or an immediate family member shall be
 87 confidential.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	27-100a

Statement of Purpose:

To permit grants from the Military Family Relief Fund to be used to make veterans' homes and veterans' organization facilities accessible to disabled veterans.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.; SEN. MAYNARD, 18th Dist.
 SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.; REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
 REP. KALINOWSKI, 100th Dist.; REP. GRAZIANI, 57th Dist.

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